W1TKZ

The Spark Gap

October 1987

Book XII Volume X

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

President's Message

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

I hope to see you all at the Flea Market on the 4th this month as this is our leading fund raising effort for the year. Without things like this event, we couldn't support the level of activity that we do. Help W.A.R.S. on the 4th and stop by to help. On the 18th of October, we are doing the Wellesley Veterans Parade starting at about 10am until about 2pm. Our duties for this one include helping to get all the units together in formation and reporting to the reviewing stand any no shows or out of place units. It's a fun day. Operators need to have 2m handhelds for this event as we'll be out on foot and using the Wellesley repeater.

Ever hear of the Wellesley 440 repeater? Well, some of us have, and some of us have even worked it. This repeater sits idle right now at the club needing a little work on the transmitter exciter. Any volunteers?

This months speaker is Dave Crocker, W1TMO who will talk about packet radio in the area and presumably provide live demonstrations.

VHF Contests

In June's VHF extravaganza, W1TKZ placed first Multioperator in Vermont and 8th place overall Multioperator. A fine showing for W1TKZ.

In September's Contest, W1TKZ was not active from Mt. Equinox due to some personnel problems.

Field Day

Due to an oversight, we didn't print the full results of Field Day last month, but, alas, it is printed this month!

W1TKZ Field Day 1987

Band	# QSO's	Band	# QSO's
80 cw	7	75 Phone	135
40 cw	19	40 Phone	42
20 Cw	26	20 Phone	66
12 Cw	3		
15 Cw	30	15 Phone	63
10 Cw	18	10 Phone	60
6 Phone	1		
2 Cw	30	2 Phone	5
1.25 Phone	1		
0.70 Phone	2		
Satellite	1		

Dues are Due!

As we voted at the September 3rd business meeting, the dues for this year are set at $15 per person, $2 for additional family members not receiving additional newsletters, and $2 for non-sighted persons wishing membership but not wishing to receive the newsletter.

The dues increase will be used to offset the large costs of contest expeditions, specifically in the rental of vans used to haul towers and antennas to Vermont for our VHF expeditions.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

October 1, 1987 at 7:30 P.M.
October 15, 1987 at 7:30 P.M.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

New Tickets ! !

No new ticket announcements have been reported this month, but congratulations to Leon who earned credit for element 3B at the Wellesley Exam session last month.

Leon Kaufman Earned Element 3B

Apologies

Apologies to Neil Grossman, KA1PPG, whose name and call were inadvertently left off the list of people that helped install the new repeater antenna.

W.A.R.S. Raffle

As a new twist for our members, we're going to have a raffle, the rules of which are to follow. There is approximately $40 worth of prizes in this raffle, approximately half of which was donated by Heathkit on Rt 9 in Wellesley.

There are multiple prizes in the raffle, which will be drawn on the first meeting of December.

Each person that pays his/her dues before November 30, 1987 will be automatically entered into the raffle once. Additionally, tickets for the raffle will be available at each club meeting between now and then when members can purchase additional tickets at the price of 3 per $1. Stubs will be available for you to write your name on. This way the winner need not be present at the drawing to claim prizes (it is strongly encouraged).

Stop by to get your tickets...

W1TKZ Special Events Station

W1TKZ was on the air September 19, 1987 with a special events station to celebrate the new Novice enhancements on the 10 meter band. The station was on the air throughout the exam session at the Red Cross and continued operation into the evening. We had a good turn-out of operators during the day although the band conditions were poor the entire day.

Roger, N1EYZ, was the first operator to call CQ that morning and he promptly got an answer from KA1PNA, Liz (who must have been waiting in the willows). After their first exchange, Roger handed the Mic over to Vern, ND1Z, at which time Liz said : "the name here is Liz." "I know", replied Vern, "I married you five years ago."

The rest of the morning at the special events station was relatively slow since the band conditions were basically ground wave. NG1I, Frank, stopped by to operate for a while and showed us what a magnetic personality can achieve on a dead band. He also filled us in on some of the finer points of tuning the club station.

After the Exam Session let out, Vern, N1DZ, took charge of the Mic and started to bring some life to the station. At one point we thought the band must have suddenly opened as we heard a booming signal from KA1QWE/AG, coming in at 60 dB over S9 !! But after looking out the front window of the Red Cross we discovered it was Bill Knowles using N1CPE's mobile rig in the front parking lot and celebrating his new general privileges.

Other excitement during the afternoon included a call from KQ1V, one of the big time HF contesters in Eastern Mass. After giving him a serial number, he gave us one right back !! Wait a minute ... it seems Dave was working the CAN AM contest and we were the only signal on 10 meters. He needed a multiplier for 10 meters, so we gave it to him.! Late in the afternoon we got a call from someone who wanted to know what time we were holding the FCC Exam. It ended at 1:00 P.M.

All told we had fun operating the club station for a day and had a chance to get some of the local Novices and Technicians onto the 10 meter phone band. The total number of QSO's for the day was 52. Our farthest QSO

Calendar ! ! !

- October 1 : W.A.R.S. Meeting ... 7:30 P.M. ... Wellesley Red Cross.
- October 4 : Wellesley A.R.S. Flea Market .. Wellesley High School .. 9 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.
- October 15 : W.A.R.S. Meeting ... 7:30 P.M. ... Guest speaker, Dave Crocker, W1TMO on Packet Radio.
- October 18 : Wellesley Veterans Parade .. 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Editor :

Jon Freeman, KC1FD

47 East Meadow Road

Lowell, Ma. 01854

The Spark Gap is a monthly publication of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society, its sole purpose is to keep its members abreast of current happenings, FCC rule & regulation changes and to list equipment offered for sale or trade by members. Members are encouraged to contribute to the Spark Gap and may send their articles to the Editor's address or to the club address. Items printed in the Spark Gap may be reprinted by other Amateur Radio publications provided the author and the Spark Gap are given credit.

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society is dedicated to the promotion of Amateur Radio through instruction, fellowship, demonstration and participation. Annual membership in the society is $15 and the club year runs from September 1 through August 31. Amateur Novice through Advanced classes are conducted regularly at no cost. To enroll in a class or gain information about the Society in general, write :

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

211 Washington Street

Wellesley, Ma. 02181

was with Bristol, CT., about 45 miles away. Our closest, of course was in Wellesley, MA., about 40 feet, 5 inches away.

Thanks to all of the Operators who participated in the W1TKZ special events station : ND1Z (Vern), N1CPE (Tom), KA1PNA (Liz), NG1I (Frank), KA1LQO (George), N1EYZ (Roger), KC1FD (Jon), and KA1FGY (Bruce).

On September 20, the very next day, the 10 meter band opened into South America.

Net!

Don't forget the W.A.R.S. net on the Wellesley 2 meter repeater, 147.03 MHz. at 8:00 P.M. every Wednesday night.

FLEA SEASON

- OCT 4 ... The Wellesley A.R.S. Flea Market ... Wellesley High School parking lot ... 9am to 2:30pm
- OCT 10 ... The Fall Horse Traders DeerField ... At the Deerfield Fair Grounds ... Talk in will be provided.. on the 147.000 (-600) Repeater
- OCT 25 ... Framingham ARA ... Framingham Civic League Bldg, 214 Concord St. (Rte 126) ... Exams ... Talk-in 147.75/15 ... more info Oct QST p66

Renewing Your ARRL Membership

If you're renewing your ARRL membership, please send your completed ARRL membership form (check QST) and your check made out to the Wellesley A.R.S.. Send the check and form to the club at 211 Washington St. Wellesley, Ma. 02181. We will then forward this to the ARRL on your behalf. This way, we are able to make $2 from each renewal.

Wellesley Exam Session

W.A.R.S. had yet another successful exam session on the 19th of September. There were numerous VE's on hand to help out with the session : five in all, including KZ1D (Dan), ND1Z (Vern), KX1H (Thomas), NG1I (Frank) and N1CPE (Tom). Eight people showed up to take an amateur exam that morning and exams were given for the entire amateur spectrum from Novice to Extra. Here are the statistics on the license upgrades and exam credits given out that day : 1 element 4B credit, 2 Advanced upgrades, 2 General upgrades, 1 element 3B credit and 1 Novice ticket. A special congratulations to Tom Johnson who jumped from Technician to Advanced in one exam session !

OFFICERS

President
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 898-2749
Vice President
Rita Baker, N1DDI, 481-0863
Recording Secretary
Roger Smith, W1EOA, 235-6239
Corresponding Secretary
Kathy Pate, KA1IYR, 785-1801
Treasurer
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
Fund Raising
David Kent, N2AWG, 875-2126
Operations Chairman
Vern Valero, ND1Z, 533-6822

October Speaker

Don't miss the presentation this month to be given by Dave Crocker, W1TMO from Needham, Ma. at the October 15 meeting. Dave, who is the Editor of the (NEPRA) New England Packet Radio Association's PacketEar newsletter, will be giving a talk and demo on Packet Radio. Spread the word !!

Flea Market

The Wellesley A.R.S. Flea Market is planned for October 4th at the Wellesley High School parking lot 9am to 2:30pm. Talk it up and let all your friends know.

Wellesley Veterans Parade

The Wellesley Veterans Parade is scheduled for October 18th at 1 P.M. The organizing committee has again asked us to participate in getting the parade off the ground as in past years. If you are available at around 10 A.M. on October 18, let Tom Kinahan know so you can get on the list of operators of this fun event.

VEC Exams

- Oct 21 ... MIT – Cambridge Ma ... contact, Ron Hoffmann WA2EYC, 56 Palmer St., Arlington, Ma 02174, 617-646-1641
- Nov 2 (3 ?) ... Acton Boxboro HS, Room 6 ... John Conover, W1QLT, 203 Main St., Acton, Ma 01720, 263-8742, (By app't only, pre-register by 10/27)

Equipment Inventory

HELP us with our W.A.R.S. equipment inventory !!! If you have W.A.R.S. equipment on loan please send a card to the club address with 1) equipment type 2) manufacturer/model #'s 3) description 4) serial #'s. Thanks.

Why Not Contesting ?

by Dan Brevik, KZ1D

(Editor's Note : By far, this is the easiest interview I have ever participated in. Tnx Dan)

W1TKZ is well known in VHF and Field Day contests. The club always encourages newcomers to participate. But there are other contests as well where the individual can jump in and have a lot of fun.

At some point in a new ham's life he or she runs into a contest while tuning the dial. It's a bit mystifying at first – the tempo seems awfully fast, the QSO's very short, and the message passed doesn't seem to make much sense. That was KZ1D's first impression, but his curiosity go the better of him one day and he decided to "have a go at it". He became an avid contester. Now he keeps encouraging newcomers to hop in. Dan's favorites are the DX contests – CQ WW, CQ WPX, All Asian, and so forth. Dan is also a DX chaser and he found that DX contests are a great way to find the tough ones who only seem to be there during a contest. He also gets into the Sweepstakes scrap every November.

We thought we would interview Dan and hear his thoughts on contests.

Editor: When did you first get into contests, Dan?

KZ1D: It was the Phone Sweepstakes, 1985. They take place over the fourth weekend in November. I had just picked up my license again after a lapse of several years. That Saturday evening I wandered into the shack to see what was on the air. Everyone was on the air! My gosh, the joint was jumping! At first I wasn't sure what the excitement was all about but pretty soon realized it was a contest. Initially I shied away – I didn't know what to do. They seemed to be trading some sort of message that didn't make much sense at first. I remembered having read in QST about the Sweepstakes so I fished out a recent copy from the mess in my shack and looked up the rules. After reading them a couple of times things started making sense. I had been wanting to earn a WAS and I realized this was a great opportunity to grab off a few new states. So I hopped in. I didn't get to bed until after 3 AM and I was up and back on by 7. Instant addiction!

Editor: When did you get into the DX contests?

KZ1D: Immediately. I knew a good thing when I heard it. I enjoyed myself so much in SS that I started planning for the next available contest right away. I don't even remember which one it was.

Editor: I suppose you have to have a contest quality station. What's your antenna system, a beam?

KZ1D: Nope. Got a HyGain 14AVQ on the roof. A tower and beam would be great, obviously, but you can still do well without it. Lack of a top-flight antenna system is no excuse. There are such things as contest quality stations but its not a requirement.

Editor: What's your rig?

KZ1D: I have a Kenwood TS-930S and an Ameritron AL80A KW. The first few contests I ran barefoot into the vertical but decided that a linear could do no harm so I picked one up. One of the nice things during a contest is that everybody - but everybody - is actually LISTENING to hear you and WANTING to work you. After a while you get to be a real pro in communicating, and I might add that working under contest pressure is very good training for communicating when the chips are down during an emergency.

Editor: What's the next contest that a beginner could start with?

KZ1D: The biggest and the best are coming up. The CQ Worldwide phone contest is scheduled for October 24-25. And the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes comes on November 21-23. They both have CW versions too. CQWW CW is on November 28-29 and the CW Sweepstakes are on November 7-9. They are all great contests for the beginner because there is so much activity you simply cannot miss. You are guaranteed a great time. In the 85 CQWW SSB contest propagation suddenly got reasonable despite the crummy sunspot conditions. It was wild. That weekend, with my little old vertical, I racked up 61 countries! And there was some good DX in there - Liechtenstein, San Andres Island - places not commonly on the air except during contests. The CQWW is by far the premier DX contest, and DXpeditions pop up all over. So I repeat, just hop in. You may discover a new world.

Donations needed for Handi-Hams

The local chapter of the Handi-Hams organization is trying to develop a pool of funds to be used to purchase VHF and HF equipment which will be loaned out for as long as necessary to new Handi-Hams in our area. Whatever you can donate towards this cause will be greatly appreciated. Donations of working used VHF and HF equipment would also be welcomed. Thanks. Please make checks payable to and send to the following : Towne Conover - Handi-Hams, 203 Main Street, Acton, Ma. 01720.

In addition we are also trying to establish an on-going list of volunteer Handi-Ham's helpers for the Greater Boston area. These folks would become Elmers to disabled individuals in their specific area who are interested in obtaining their Ham licenses. For further information contact by landline or on the Waltham repeater (146.640, down 600 KHz) : W1QLT, Towne, 623-8742 in Acton or KA1IYR, Kathy, 785-1801.

WANTED - ON ANY TERMS

from N1BGG BBS

A reward is offered for information leading to the arrest of Eddie Current, charged with the induction of an eighteen year old coil,called Milli Henry,who was found half choked,and with the theft of valuable joules.

This unrectified criminal,armed with a carbon rod,escaped from Western Primary cell,where he had been clamped in ions. The escape was planned in three phases. First,he fused the electrolytes,he then climbed through the grid despite the impedance of the warders,and finally ran to earth in a nearby magnetic field. He has been missing since Faraday.

Watt seems most likely is that he stole an a.c. motor. This is of a low capacity and he is expected to change it for a megacycle and return to ohm by a short circuit. He may offer series resistance,and is a potential killer.

JOTA

from W1GOH BBS

The 30th jamboree-on-the-air will be held over the weekend of 17-18 October 1987. The event will begin at 00.01 hours on Saturday, 17 October and will end 48 hours later at 23.59 hours on Sunday, 18 October. Stations may operate for all or part of this period. Aside from operating CW and SSB on all bands Pocket

Radio shall be in operation for the first time in the history of JOTA in the Philippines which shall be initiated from the NHQ of the BOYS SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES with the call DX1BSP. Operating frequencies for packet shall be 7.005, 14.105, 144.090 and 435.900 mhz. Dry run shall be held on Friday 16 October at 1900 hours. Requesting all participating stations to log-in msg. to DU1AC, the BSP National JOTA Organizer. A special QSL CARD shall be sent to all contacts. The Theme of this year shall be: *** BRINGING THE WORLD TOGETHER *** Please log-in msg. thru any of the following BBS stations: DU1UJ, VS6UP, VS6EL, JA3YAA or JR1EDE. Title of message: * JOTA 87 *

An Interview with Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

W.A.R.S President

(Editor's Note : I thought it would be fun to coral our President one day and put together a short article featuring him in the newsletter.)

Editor: Tom, how did you get started in ham radio ?

N1CPE: I always had an interest in communications which started as early as high school. I picked up CB radio first and enjoyed it quite a bit. Back in 1977 I took an amateur radio class at W.A.R.S.. At the time I didn't have the time to pursue a license. But after starting college I got enthused again and managed to pick up my license between terms.

Editor: What aspect of Amateur Radio do you like best ?

N1CPE: Well, lets see, (pause ...) its not CW !! CW is neat and it has its place in amateur radio and I don't mind using it when the situation calls for it but its not my favorite aspect of ham radio.

Its the interface between technology and nature ... PROPAGATION !!! I think its pretty neat to talk to someone without any wires between you. As much as I've used radios it still amazes me that they work ! When I'm talking to someone over the radio I think its pretty amazing that I can talk to them without seeing them. When I talk to someone on the other side of the earth over the radio, well thats my favorite aspect of ham radio.

Editor: Tom, why did you become the W.A.R.S. president ?

N1CPE: This all started somewhere in the mid 1980's. At that time the club was at a crossroads and the people heavily involved in running the club had reached a point of burnout. I realized a number of things needed to be done with the club but none of the previous club leaders wanted to continue for obvious reasons. So here I am and currently we have a whole new set of club members picking up the ball.

Editor: Why did your predecessors experience burn out ?

N1CPE: Actually I'm starting to experience the same thing myself. Last year I made the statement that I would not run for office again but somehow didn't follow through on that. I think the burn out syndrome is caused by a situation where a small group of people take on most of the responsibility for running the club activities. In my case its not so much the amount of time it takes as much as the continual burden of the responsibility.

Editor: So what can the club members do to help the situation ?

N1CPE: We need to have more members to either a) volunteer to take charge of some of the club's events b) take on some portion of the responsibility.

Editor: Some examples ?

N1CPE: I still want to be in charge of some of the events, but any of the members could volunteer to take charge of any of a number of events such as 1) Field Day 2) the Mt. Equinox VHF contest 3) the W.A.R.S. flea market 4) November Sweepstakes 5) any other events or contests. So there's quite a choice, including any new ideas as well.

Editor: It sounds like you want volunteers to take charge of a major event ?

N1CPE: Yes, and new event ideas are welcome as well.

Editor:If someone wants to volunteer can they lean on you for help ?

N1CPE: Absolutely, nothing gets done in a vacuum.

Editor: What do you hope to accomplish as the W.A.R.S.

President ?

N1CPE: I simply hope to get as many members of the club involved in the events. I think this will lessen the load for everyone. I also hope we can make everyone better communicators and get them exposed to the various aspects of amateur radio.

Editor: Any special things you would like to see done in the coming year ?

N1CPE: I think we need to get more kids as well as women involved in the hobby. I would really like to have an ongoing program with the schools so we could bring more of the young people into the hobby. Perhaps we could provide some talks and training classes to support a school program.

Something else I would like to do is to resurrect the club's 440 repeater or get hold of a 220 repeater and link it to the present 2 meter repeater. We have the starts of a 440 repeater but a 220 machine would be a great thing to get novices on 2 meters via the link.

Editor: What is your idea of an ultimate station for yourself ?

N1CPE: The usual, Kenwood 940S, a 2kW linear Amp, 160 meters through 10GHz and a mountaintop QTH.

DXPEDITION STORY

submitted by Vern, ND1Z

The following narrative was received (with a QSL card!) from Bill O'Kain, K4LTA. It describes his recent DXpedition to the Carribbean operating as J6CQ, J70A, J70Z, and J74Z.

1987 Caribbean DXpedition By K4LTA And Group

The O'Kain family consisting of Bill, K4LTA, xyl, Ruby, N4FKO, and daughter, Ginger left Oak Ridge, Tennessee, on February 18th and made a rendezvous with our Texas contingent consisting of Glodys and Dick Powell, NF5Z, along with Dave Short, W5PWG and Bill Weaver, WE5P. We discovered at the Miami Airport that our BWIA flight had been cancelled but were given reservations on an Eastern Airlines flight three hours later. We arrived at St Lucia's Henanoya Airport about 10:30 PM and cleared customs about ninety minutes later after a thorough check of every piece of luggage and box of equiptment including every seriel number to insure it matched with the list previously given them by mail. Then a ninety minute van ride on the left side of the curvy mountain road accompanied by J6LMV and J6LB who met us at the airport and put us at our Caribbean coast cottages exhausted at 1:00 AM, but not too late for Dave and Bill to put up a 40 meter dipole and get on the band for the rest of the night.

I had been promised the special call sign of J6LTA, however, when we went to the licensing authority the next morning accompanied by J6LKA, we were unable to obtain this call sign but did get J6CQ. We used this special call sign during the ARRL DX contest on CW and K4LTA used it outside the contest, with other operators using their personal calls/J6L outside the contest. We four fellows alternated operating shifts during the CW contest and were delighted to have 4,472 QSO's. This was a big improvement over our score a year ago in Greneda, thanks to a 4 element tribander furnished us by Tot Henry, J6LMV, most helpful to us in many ways, including a lovely dinner for our group of seven prepared by his wife, Lucy, J6LQV, at their hilltop home overlooking Castries.

Because of limited vacation time, Dave, Bill W., and Ginger had to leave for home on March 1st as Bill and Ruby, Dick and Gladys, left St Lucia and flew over to Dominica for the last ten days of their trip. We were met at Cane Field, Dominica, by Lambert Charles, J73LC, who provided us with transportation to our cottages at the Umbrella, just north of Portsmouth, twenty-five miles northwest of Roseau on the Caribbean coast of Dominica. We were given approval to begin using the special call sign of J70A. It was three days later when we went to Roseau to finalize our license due to Government holidays at Carnival time. Since the Minister of Communications was out of the country, we were unable to get J70A, even though we had been using this call sign for four days and had to settle for J74A and J74Z, still new prefixes. There was a lot of explaining to do on the air to those wondering why we changed call signs. The good news is that after we left the island and the Minister of Communications returned, J73LC went to bat for us and got J70A issued to us for the first four days of our Dominica stay and J74 calls

for the last seven days there. Thus we were able to provide some of you with two new prefixes.

Other hams like J73EH, J73RM, J73PD, and J73D were most gracious to us. They brought a bamboo pole fourty feet long to help raise my 160 dipole so some of the Europeans could hear my 100 watts on the top band. I had previously shipped my AMP back home via Ginger since it was damaged in transit to the islands. We were pleased with our success with only 100 watts. We though we were going to have J73LC's Heathkit amp on the contest and started giving 59-500 but could never get his amp to work and ran my Ten Tec Corsair barefoot, still giving 59-500 all the contest. We had a most wonderful DXpedition with our group totalling more than 21,000 contacts, about 16,000 on CW. Thanks to you for any contribution toward our QSL-postage expense. It was our pleasure to work you and confirm the QSO's.

73 de K4LTA

Bill O'Kain

Articles

I invite anyone to submit articles to the Spark Gap on topics which would be of general interest to the membership. Ideas for articles which you would like to see included in future issues are also welcomed, not to mention important announcements, for sale or trade, vital information, etc. Please forward such information either to KC1FD at KA1MGO-1 or the address published on page 3. TNX es 73's, KC1FD.

The Spark Gap

WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

211 Washington Street

Wellesley, Ma. 02181

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

FIRST CLASS MAIL

WILLIAM HANLON N1ADY
49 VINE STREET
WRENTHAM, MA 02093